

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 - 12 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, and 12 have been amended herein. Thus, claims 1 - 12 remain pending for consideration in this application.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 - 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. In this context, the Examiner pointed out certain instances where there is an alleged lack of antecedent basis.

More specifically, the Examiner contends that the phrases “the output” in claim 1; “the set of training samples” in claim 5; “the output units” in claim 5; “the analog output” in claim 12; “the analog sensor array output” in claim 12; and “the vector expression” in claim 12 all lack antecedent basis. Claims 1, 5, and 12 have each been amended to address the alleged problems with the antecedent basis for the expressions identified above.

Claim 5 was also rejected as lacking antecedent basis for the expression “ the number of times” found at lines 3 and 5. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The expression in question is not a positively set forth step of the method described in claim 5. In short, applicants are not claiming “the number of times,” but rather, the fact that the method includes the steps of *determining* the number of times to process a training set of input values through a neural network. Applicants respectfully submit that, in the context of a method claim, this expression does not lack antecedent basis. However, to the extent that the Examiner maintains this objection, attorney for

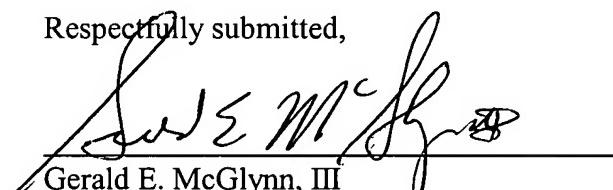
applicant would consider any suggestions the Examiner may have for amending the claim to supply the alleged antecedent basis for this expression.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 1 - 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as set forth in the September 19, 2005 Office Action. In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended so as to overcome these rejections. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the standards set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been clearly met in this case.

Conclusion

Claims 1 - 12, as amended, meet the exacting requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and each recite a method that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 - 12 patentably distinguish the present invention from the subject matter of the prior art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 27, 2005
Attorney Docket No.: 04362 (3883.00035)